About the Speakers

The course instructors are experts in his or her field. Below is a biography on each instructor listed in order of appearance.

Beverly Collins

Beverly is an Associate Professor of Biology and Director of the Southern Appalachian Biodiversity and Ecology Center at Western Carolina University. Her research focuses on plant community responses to disturbance, including natural disturbance, military land use, and forest management practices. Before coming to western North Carolina in 2006, she was an Associate Research Ecologist at the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, where she studied oak regeneration in canopy gaps in bottomland hardwood forests.

Henry McNab

Henry McNab has been a research forester with the Southern Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service for over 40 years. He has worked at research offices in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. Since 1983 he has been assigned to the Upland Hardwood Ecology & Management Unit located at the Bent Creek Experimental Forest, near Asheville. His current research assignment deals with forest site classification for timber production and ecological purposes.

David Loftis

David is Scientist Emeritus at Bent Creek Experimental Forest, the Ecology and Management of Southern Appalachian Hardwoods work unit of the Southern Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service located in Asheville, NC. David retired after more than 35 years of research in Appalachian hardwood silviculture. His specialty is hardwood regeneration. BA (Political Science), University of the South; BS (Forestry), University of the South; MF (Forestry), North Carolina State University; PhD (Forestry); North Carolina State University.

Tara Keyser

Tara is a Research Forester with the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Bent Creek Experimental Forest. Tara holds a BS in forestry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a MS and PhD from Colorado State University. She has worked for the USDA Forest Service since 2007. Her research focuses primarily on the (1) the regeneration ecology of upland hardwood forests in the southern Appalachians; (2) quantifying climate-growth relations for dominant hardwood tree species in the southeastern US; and (3) the effects of prescribed fire on forest structure and composition.

Katie Greenberg

Cathryn (Katie) H. Greenberg is Project Leader and Research Ecologist with the Upland Hardwood Ecology and Management Research Work Unit, Southern Research Station, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service. Katie received a BA degree in philosophy from George Washington University, a MS degree from the University of Tennessee, and a PhD from the University of Florida. Her research focus includes (1) effects of forest management practices (such as timber harvesting, fuel reduction practices, and prescribed fire) and natural disturbances (such as wind damage) on plant and animal communities, and (2) production of forest food resources, such as native fleshy fruit and hard mast, in relation to forest types and silvicultural disturbances.

Tom Waldrop

Tom Waldrop is Team Leader for Fire Science with the Southern Research Station's Center for Forest Disturbance Science. He has been located at Clemson, SC for 25 years. Tom holds BS and MS degrees in Forest Management from Clemson University and a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Tennessee. His research focuses on many aspects of fire ecology in the Piedmont and Appalachian Region. He is the founder of the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists which fosters communication and science delivery between fire managers and scientists from Pennsylvania to Alabama.

Steve Oak

Since 1980, Steve has been the forest pathologist with the USDA Forest Service, Southern region, Forest Health Protection located in Asheville, NC. Over the last 31 years Steve has been involved with research on pitch canker disease of slash pine including inoculum production and dissemination, insect vectors, genetic resistance, and management responses. His Forest Service research looked at: oak decline in the southeastern U.S. including regional survey techniques, risk rating, landscape effects modeling, and management responses, pitch canker resistance screening techniques, Sudden Oak Death survey and assessment of risk to eastern hardwood forests.
BS, Juniata College; MF, Duke University.

Gary Miller

Gary is a Research Forester with the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station in Morgantown, West Virginia. The research team at this location studies the Ecology and Management of Invasive Species and Forest Ecosystems. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees from West Virginia University and a Ph.D. degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He has conducted research on silviculture and management of central Appalachian hardwood ecosystems since joining the Forest Service in 1981.

Bill Alexander

Bill Alexander has worked in various capacities in landscape and forest management during his 33 years of employment with Biltmore Estate. For the past 12 years, as landscape and forest historian, he has devoted much of his time to research of the extensive records to document the rich history and significance of Biltmore Estate's land stewardship and contributions to the establishment of American forestry.

Parker Andes

Parker is the Director of Horticulture with the Biltmore Estate. A 1980 graduate of West Virginia University, he worked at Longwood Gardens and Callaway Gardens before starting with Biltmore in October 2000. In addition to the Gardens and Landscapes, he has led up the forestry program on the estate's 5,000 acres of woodland for the last 7years. Currently, the estate averages around 500 mbf of harvest yearly, mostly white pine.

Stacy Clark

Stacy has been a Research Forester with the Southern Research Station since 2005 and is stationed in Knoxville, Tennessee on the University of Tennessee campus. She studies artificial regeneration of hardwoods, primarily oak and American chestnut. She also has research projects on prescribed burning and fuel dynamics, and several tree-ring studies to examine forest history and stand dynamics. She obtained her PhD from Oklahoma State University in Plant Science, and her M.S. and B.S. in Forest Resource Management from the University of Tennessee.

Robert R. Rummer

Bob Rummer is the Project Leader for the USDA Forest Service, Forest Operations Research Unit in Auburn, Alabama. His research team studies many aspects of forest operations including productivity, costs and site impacts in order to find a better match between systems and modern forest management objectives. Much of his current work is focused on biomass harvesting, including studies of bundling and baling, understory and range harvesting, and the economic feasibility of different systems.

Jim Vose

Jim is Project Leader and Research Ecologist at the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station in western North Carolina. He holds a Ph.D in Forest Ecology from North Carolina State University, an M.S. in Forest Ecology from Northern Arizona University, and a B.S. in Forestry from Southern Illinois University. His 20^{+} years of research at Coweeta has focused on understanding the structural and functional attributes of forest watersheds and how watersheds respond to natural disturbances and forest management. He is also the Forest Service Lead-PI on the National Science Foundation Coweeta Long-term Ecological Research Project, a collaborative research effort between the University of Georgia and the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory that is examining the interaction of ex-urbanization and climate change on water resources and biodiversity in the southern Appalachians. He has published over 150 research articles and holds adjunct faculty appointments at the University of Georgia, North Carolina State University, and Virginia Tech.

Jeff Stringer

Jeff is an Extension Professor and Research Scientist with the University of Kentucky, Department of Forestry. His research includes applied aspects of oak silviculture and forestry operations. His silviculture work focuses on the enhancement of oak growth and regeneration including oak shelterwood, two-age system development, site preparation for natural regeneration, and crop-tree release. His research in forestry operations includes forestry Best Management Practices use and herbicide applications. He is a nationally recognized extension specialist in hardwood silviculture and timber harvesting. He excels at integrating practical, scientific information for production foresters. His energetic presentations and practical hands-on field exercises engage students.

Chad Keyser

Chad is a forester/biometrician with the USDA Forest Service, Forest Management Service Center, a sub-unit of the national Forest Management staff in Washington, DC. For the last 10 years, he has been supporting and developing the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) across the United States, with recent emphasis being placed on the eastern and southern versions of FVS and the development of a new Alaska Northern Boreal Forest version of FVS. He is a US Army veteran having served in the Gulf War and has received a B.S in Forest Science with Highest Honors from the University of Illinois and a M.S in Forestry from the University of Montana. Chad is remotely located at Bent Creek Experimental Forest.

Gary Kaufman

Gary has been the Forest Botanist for the USDA Forest Service, National Forests in NC, headquartered in Asheville, NC. The National Forests in NC cover 1.1 million acres across 4 forests, the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests in the mountains, the Uwharrie NF in the Piedmont, and the Croatan NF in the Coastal Plain. Since 2002 Gary has coordinated the invasive plant program across the 4 forests. During the same time he started as and continues to serve as the Forest Botanical Products Specialist. Gary has been with the USFS since 1992 previously filling the Nantahala NF botanist position from 1992 to 2000. Various botanist and ecologist duties Gary has filled on the NFsNC include developing a monitoring program for rare plant species, for collected botanical forest products and for assessing invasive plant species. Other duties include NEPA project review for the botanical resource, planning at the forest level, and restoration of rare plant populations and rare plant communities. He received a Masters degree in botany and mycology from Ohio University.